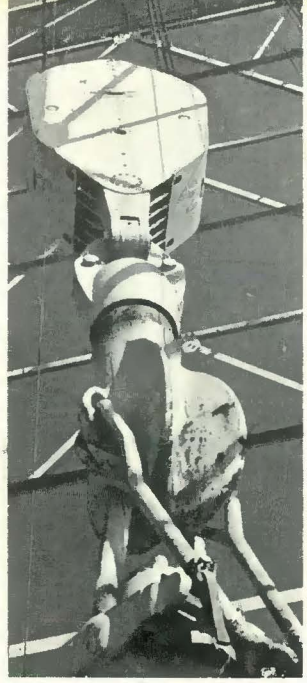
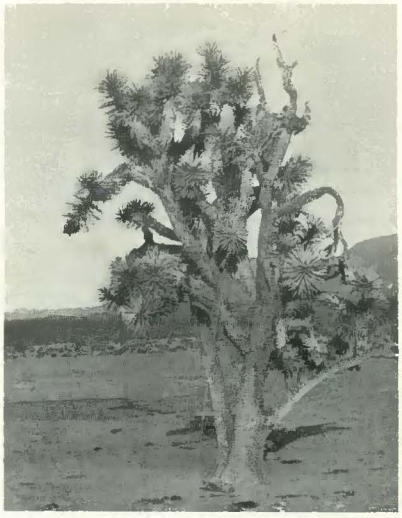




introducing

BLM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, Stewart L. Udall, Secretary
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, Charles H. Stoddard, Director

July 1963

INTRODUCING BLM . . .

The conservation scope of the Bureau of Land Management of the United States Department of the Interior is as broad as America's history of land and resource development. Responsibility for stewardship of the public domain has evolved from an 1812 Congressional charge ". . . to perform all actions and things touching or respecting the public lands of the United States. . . ."

In 1946 the General Land Office was consolidated with the Grazing Service to form the Bureau of Land Management. BLM is greatly indebted to these two organizations for a rich heritage of tradition, experience, and know-how. They were brought together so that the public would be assured of consistency in the conservation of natural resources.

The lands managed by BLM stretch from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean, and encompass some 466 million acres. The President has referred to this vast storehouse of lands and resources as ". . . a vital national reserve that should be devoted to productive use now and maintained for future generations."

Changes in land use and needs have greatly altered the role of public lands in the national economy. The social and economic contributions of these public lands are immeasurable. From them come timber, oil and gas, forage for livestock and wildlife, valuable minerals for industry, water for private, municipal and industrial needs, and space for urban development. In addition, the lands provide opportunities for camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, swimming, and other recreation.

In administering these 466 million acres BLM is guided by a set of broad goals:

> To manage the Nation's public lands and resources wisely, to prevent waste and destructive exploitation, and to preserve and protect the priceless heritage and destiny of the public resources in the Bureau's trust.

Right: a slough near Fairbanks, Alaska.
Below right: a flowering yucca in Colorado—examples of the varied terrain under BLM management.

To assure the continued role of the public domain as a national storehouse of land and resources, from which future national needs can be supplied as lands are dedicated to their highest use.

To rebuild and restore the productivity of millions of acres whose life-giving topsoil and nourishing vegetation have been taken away by the ravages of flood, wind, fire, and over-use.

To harvest the products of renewable resources under sustained yield, assuring future generations of equal or better supply.

To facilitate the extraction of nonrenewable resources under conditions that prevent waste and take adequate account of future needs.

To serve the entire Nation, by managing these lands and resources under the highest standards of competence and efficiency and the guiding force of the national interest.

BLM ORGANIZATION

BLM is one of the agencies of the United States Department of the Interior. The Bureau's varied resource activities require the skills and services of a wide variety of professions and occupations. Some of the men and women who work in BLM are:

Range conservationists
Foresters
Surveyors and cartographers
Economists
Mining and agricultural engineers
Recreation specialists
Clerical and administrative personnel
Wildlife conservationists
Lawyers and appraisers
Other persons trained in the natural sciences.

Most BLM employees are employed in the field where they have immediate contact with the lands and resources under the Bureau's trust. The organization is largely decentralized with major responsibility for resource programs delegated to State and district offices.

There is a list of BLM State offices at the end of this publication.

LANDS UNDER BLM MANAGEMENT

The vast public domain once included all of the lands to the west and north of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers (except Texas and Hawaii), plus Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and Florida. Today less than 100,000 acres remain east of the Rocky Mountain States. The bulk of the lands are in 11 western States: Alaska, Oregon, California, Arizona, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico.

LAND CLASSIFICATION

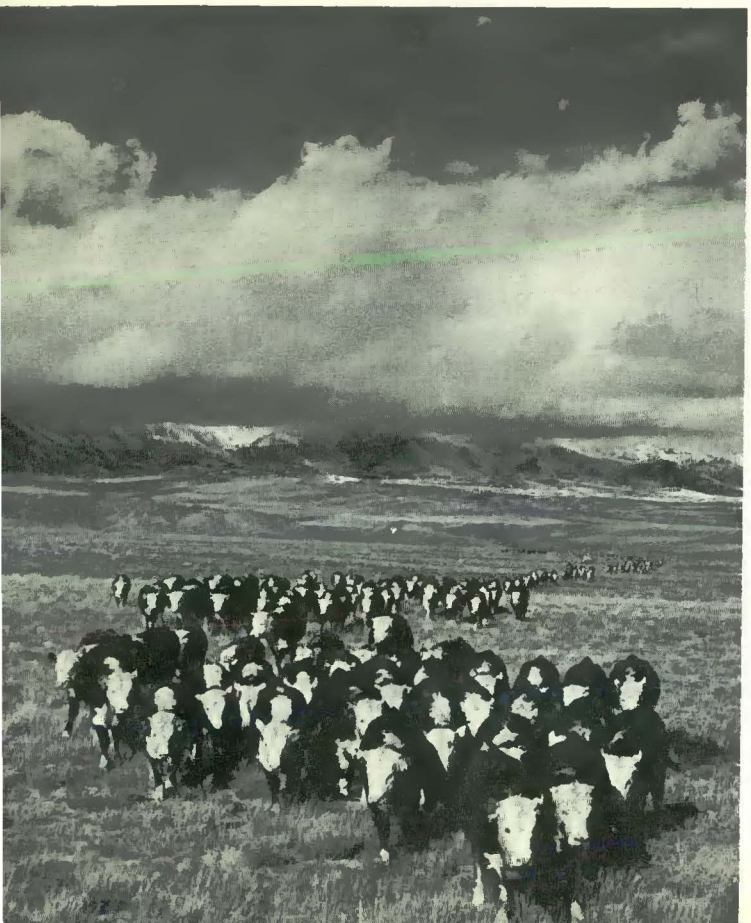
On February 23, 1961, the President sent a special message on natural resources to Congress. In that message the President directed the Secretary of the Interior to:

1) accelerate an inventory and evaluation of the Nation's public domain holdings to serve as a foundation for improved resource management;
2) develop a program of balanced use designed to reconcile the conflicting uses—grazing, forestry, recreation, wildlife, urban development, and mineral; and
3) accelerate the installation of soil conserving and water saving works and practices to reduce erosion and improve forage capacity; and to proceed with the revegetation of range lands on which the forage capacity has been badly depleted or destroyed.

As the first step in carrying out the President's directive the Secretary of the Interior ordered an 18-month moratorium on most types of new applications for public lands. The moratorium was lifted in September 1962. The purpose of the moratorium was to give the Bureau of Land Management an opportunity to work out backlogs of land applications and launch a comprehensive inventory of the lands and resources under their jurisdiction.

BLISTER RUST CONTROL is an important part of forest management.

THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY is only one which is dependent on public lands. The lands also supply timber, minerals, recreation, and wildlife protection.



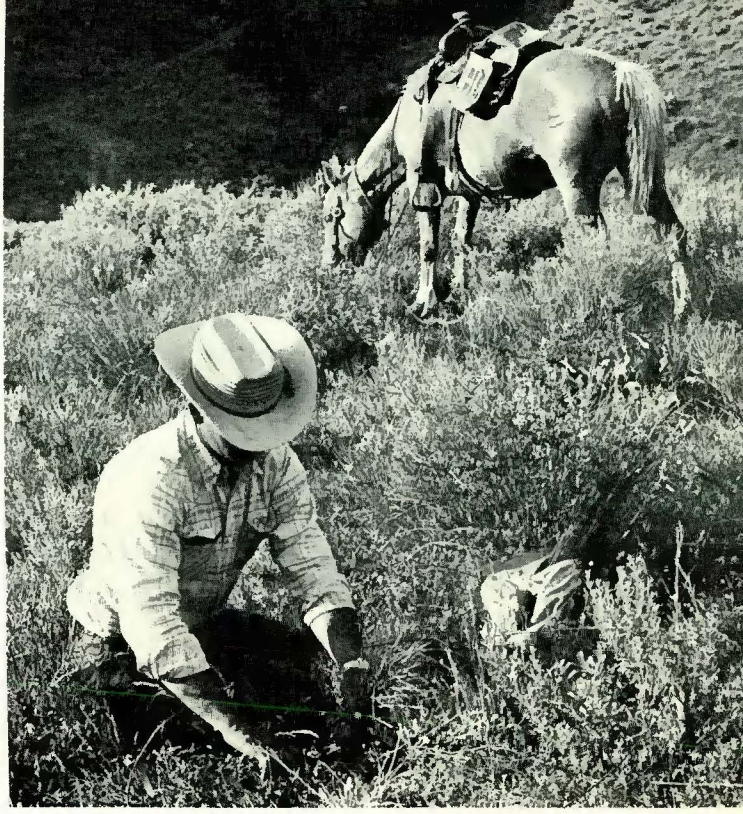
Each year BLM classifies tens of thousands of acres of public domain land under the authority of the Taylor Grazing Act. Some of these lands are found suitable for transfer out of Federal ownership—to State and county governments and to private citizens and companies. In one recent year about 500,000 acres were transferred out of Federal ownership—in land exchanges, for use as agricultural land, mineral lands, areas for recreation and vacation homes.

Land classification is the key to development and balanced use of natural resources. BLM land economists classify public lands for their highest and best use. The lands are transferred out of Federal ownership only when it is in the public interest. When the resources can best be managed by the Federal Government, the land is retained by it. In some instances, classification provides for several compatible resource uses of a specific area. In other cases the public interest may dictate a primary use of lands or resources. The Bureau balances uses from the standpoint of the entire management system—which covers 466 million acres. In this way lands from the Nation's public domain will continue to fill their historic role and meet the growing needs of the Nation, while at the same time the interest of every citizen in his public lands is protected.

In classifying and administering public lands BLM works within a framework of many public land laws. Some laws provide for the sale or transfer of lands to private citizens for farms or homes. Others provide for lands for urban and industrial development, education, public recreation, and other uses.

There are laws which provide for the improvement and sustained yield management of renewable natural resources such as timber or wildlife, as well as laws which govern the conservation and extraction of nonrenewable resources such as coal, petroleum, and minerals.

Many people wonder if it is still possible to obtain a homestead on public lands. It is still legally possible (the law is still on the books), but homesteading is almost a thing of the past. Most of the good agricultural land is already in private ownership. A few farms have been developed recently on semiarid lands by irrigation, but the costs of developing virgin land are generally very high. Even in Alaska the opportunities for homesteading under Federal law are rapidly shrinking as the State obtains ownership of about 104 million acres granted to it by Congress.



RANGE SURVEYS determine the grazing capacity of an area. Here random samples are being taken for a weight-volume study.

Many people regard homesteading as a means of obtaining "free" land. There are no "free" lands available from the Federal Government. The cost of developing a farm homestead may run from $20,000 to $60,000. Most people asking about public lands are more interested in land for a summer home or recreation area than for a farm. It is often possible to buy land for this purpose in the West from BLM. Most of these tracts are sold by competitive bid.

LAND RECORDS

As a part of its lands function, the Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the custody and maintenance of the Nation's basic public land records. Much information and historical data about the early exploration, settlement, and development of the western United States is recorded in these priceless volumes. They show the present status and past history of over a billion and a half acres of public and private lands in

BULL ELK in mountains of eastern Idaho. The public lands provide food for many animals.

6,000 bound volumes of *tract books*, which together contain over a million and a half pages.

BLM is now engaged in a large program to revise and modernize the public land records, adapting their use and maintenance to the latest microfilm and punched card techniques.

RANGE MANAGEMENT

The public domain lands make up a significant part of the economic base of the western livestock industry. About 27,000 farmers and ranchers graze more than 8 million head of livestock on public land grazing districts part of each year. They share the forage with about 2.5 million big game animals.

BLM range conservationists work to conserve water and other resources in the management of Western rangelands, and to improve and increase the production of forage for livestock and wildlife. The Bureau issues grazing permits to ranchers and farmers within grazing districts established under the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, and grazing leases on public lands outside of these districts.

Much of the Bureau's range conservation and improvement work is done in cooperation with local, State, and national advisory boards. The Bureau must constantly reconcile conflicting demands, so that use of public lands for grazing is balanced with other public and private needs for the lands and resources. Some of these needs are for wildlife protection and recreation, watershed protection, and timber management, as well as for industries like the livestock industry and the mining industry.

Soil and moisture conservation work is carried out to restore and rehabilitate depleted Federal range lands. BLM cooperates with other Government agencies in programs of soil and water conservation. The general objectives are control of soil erosion and water losses and stabilization of forest and range watersheds to assure continued availability of water for domestic use, livestock and wildlife, irrigation, power generation, and industry. With the ever-expanding population of the Nation and the increase in industry, conservation of water is becoming increasingly important.

Part of BLM's range improvement program is done in cooperation with ranchers who use public lands. Their activities include weed control, and construction of truck trails, corrals, fences, and watering facilities. Wildlife management and fire prevention are other important phases of the Bureau's activity on the range.

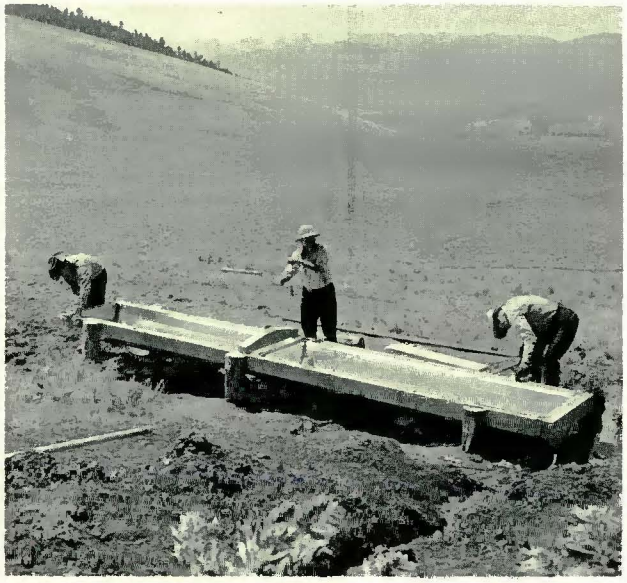
PROTECTION OF RESOURCES

Recreational use of BLM-managed lands is rapidly increasing, but few of the areas frequented by visitors are equipped with sanitary facilities,

The public lands administered by BLM under the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 are shown below.

Right: **BOATING, fishing, hunting, picnicking, swimming—the public lands furnish a wealth of possibilities for recreation.**

Below: **STOCK TROUGHS and other range improvements are often built in cooperation with local ranchers.**



safe water, stone fireplaces, trash receptacles or similar improvements. Some of these improvements have been installed recently under the Accelerated Public Works program at 49 sites scattered across the Western States, demonstrating in a small way what can be done to protect natural resources and public health.

The Bureau also participates in cooperative programs, whereby BLM furnishes the land, some access, and fire protection, and State and local governments construct and maintain improvements.

Under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, BLM classifies and makes appropriate lands available to State and local governments and nonprofit organizations for public recreation development. The lands must be permanently dedicated to public recreation use by all Americans without discrimination or favor or they will revert to the United States Government.

THE BOISE WATERSHED project was a dramatic fight against erosion on a burned and flooded area.

HIGH LEAD LOGGING is an example of techniques employed by loggers in cooperation with BLM.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

BLM manages forests for many uses: lumber, and other forest products, recreation, wildlife, watershed protection, and forage.

About 160 million acres of the land administered by BLM are forests and woodland. Over 2 million acres of this are in organized forest management areas—the so-called O&C forests in western Oregon.

Over a billion board feet of lumber is sold off BLM forests every year. On the O&C there are vast stands of high quality, old-growth Douglas fir intensively managed on a sustained yield basis.

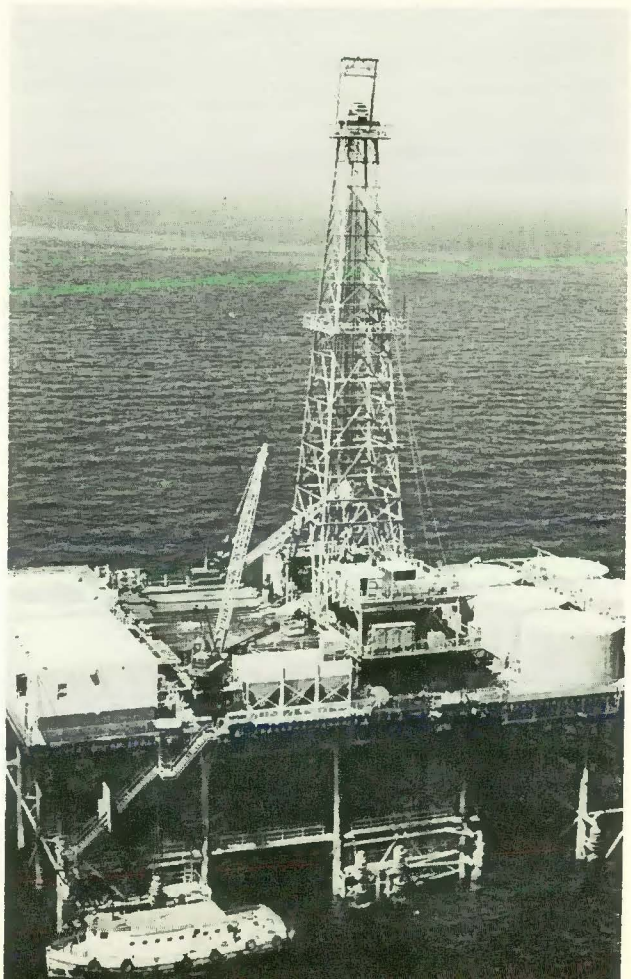
Sale of mature timber, scientific cutting practices, reforestation, construction of access roads and recreation facilities, wildlife management, and protection of timber against fire, disease, and insects are all part of BLM's timber management program.

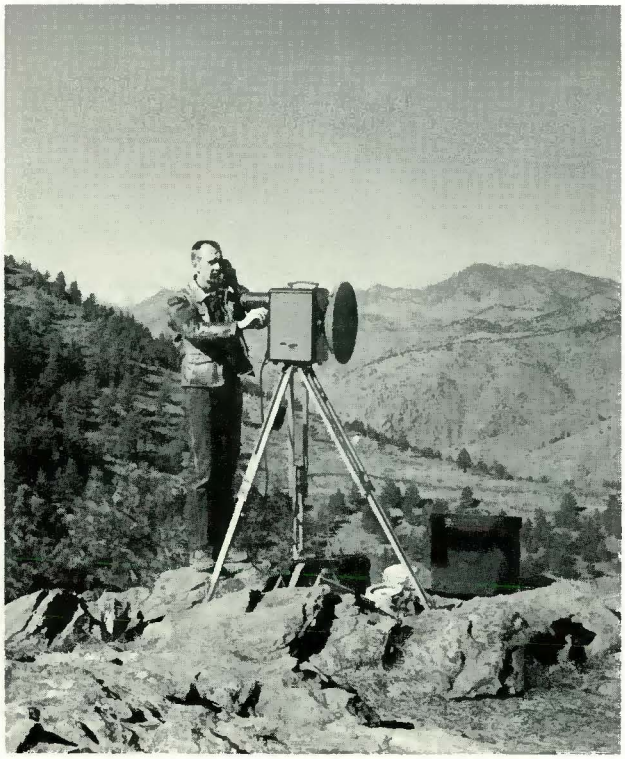
MINING AND MINERAL LEASING

Another major program of the Bureau of Land Management is the administration of the mining and mineral leasing laws. The General Mining Laws of 1872 and the Mineral Leasing Laws of 1920 apply to millions of acres of public lands, and to certain privately owned land on which the mineral rights have been reserved to the Federal government. The Bureau also has jurisdiction over the leasing of oil, gas, sulphur, and other mineral deposits in submerged lands of the Outer Continental Shelf, those lands which lie beyond the three mile or three league limit reserved to the States. The Outer Continental Shelf provides a substantial percentage of the valuable mineral wealth of the Nation.

Some minerals—oil and gas, coal, potassium, sodium, phosphate, oil shale, asphalt, and others—are developed on public lands through a leasing system. Leases are issued competitively for lands known to contain valuable mineral deposits and noncompetitively where no deposits are known to exist. Permits and leases are issued for a specific period of time and may be renewed or extended as long as production is obtained in paying quantities. For this, private firms and individuals pay a rental and royalty on any production from the leased lands to the Federal Government.

THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF is a source of oil and gas, sulphur, phosphate, and other minerals.





CADASTRAL SURVEYORS use modern electronic equipment.

Leases are issued to United States citizens, associations, and corporations. Certain limitations are placed on the acreage which an individual, association, or corporation may hold in mineral leases at any one time.

The Bureau issues patents (title documents) to mining claims located under the General Mining Laws. Rights to minerals under these laws are obtained by the discovery of valuable deposits, staking and filing of claims, and the performance of the required annual asessment work. When a specified amount of mining improvement work has been done and other conditions of the laws and the regulations have been met, the Government may issue a patent or deed for the mineral land.

The list of minerals included under these laws is a long one—uranium, boron, copper, lead, zinc, aluminum and iron ore, gold, silver, and mercury, limestone and gypsum, and others.

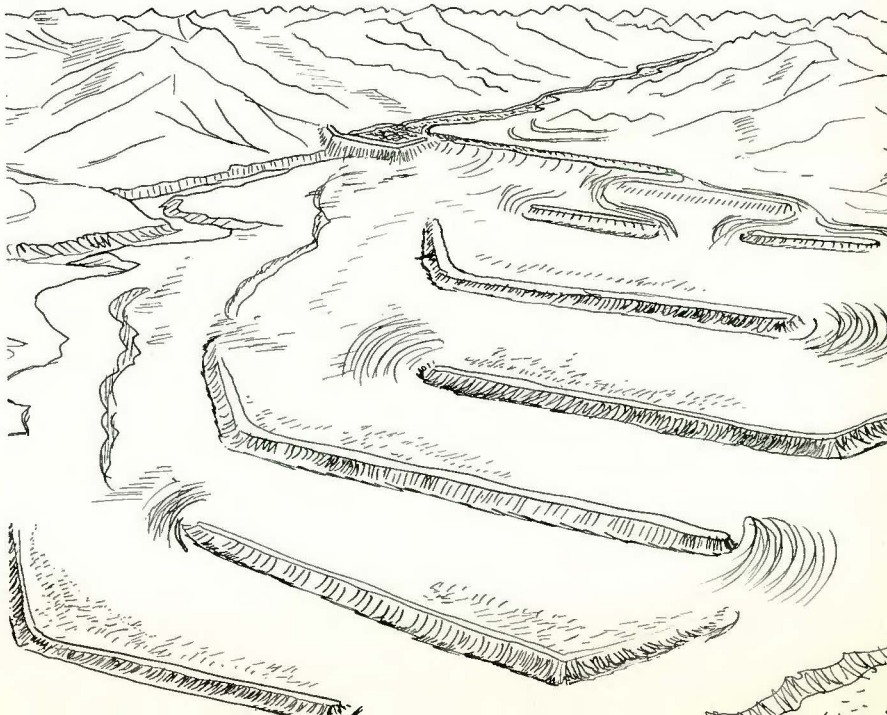
Certain nonmetallic substances, such as sand and gravel, are also available from public lands, either through purchase or lease.

ENGINEERING

BLM engineering includes cadastral surveying, road and trail designing, design of detention dams and waterspreading systems, and many other activities.

BLM is responsible for all public land surveys—an activity that dates back to the Ordinance of 1785. These surveys create land boundaries, identify lands, determine areas, furnish legal description for title purposes, and actually mark the lines on the ground by establishing substantial monuments.

Present day surveying crews have the advantage of the most modern equipment and methods. The survey parties live in field camps near the surveying project. They often live in house trailers which are equipped with gas for cooking



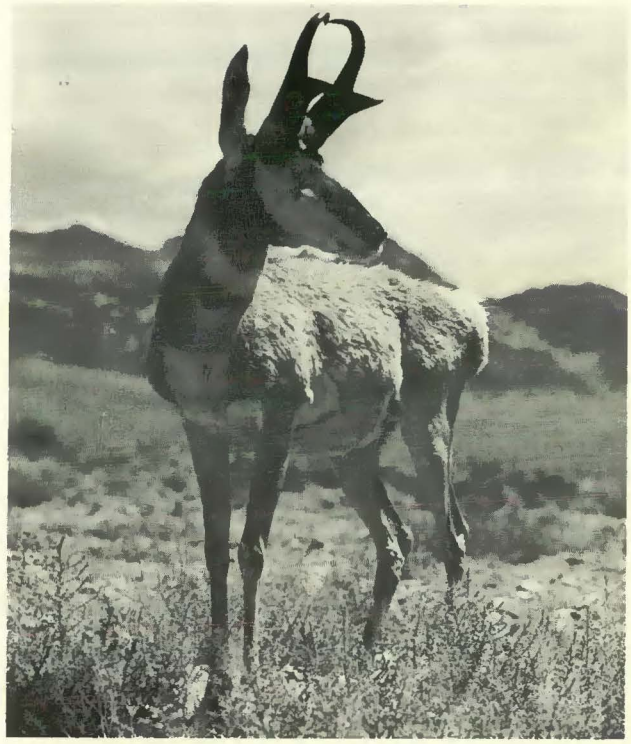
THIS WATER SPREADING SYSTEM is an example of the sort of conservation work carried on by BLM engineers. Earth-filled detention dams hold and spread water evenly over large areas.

and heating, running water, and electric lights. Transportation to work areas is by truck, jeep, or helicopter, depending on the accessibility of the region.

Another BLM engineering activity is the designing of earth-filled structures to conserve and regulate the flow of water from small watersheds. This activity serves as the foundation of many of the Bureau's range improvement and conservation programs.

WILDLIFE

The public domain lands are home for a large variety of wildlife. In the quiet shelter of forests and woodlands are elk, deer, bear, and moose. Across the vast expanses of grassland and sagebrush roam antelope and mule deer, and in some areas of the Southwest, javelinas. Upland game birds include sage grouse, chuckar partridge, quail and others. Providing water, forage, and browse for wildlife is an important responsibility of BLM.



ANTELOPE graze plains in the West, sharing forage with sheep and cattle.

RECEIPTS AND APPROPRIATIONS

Managing the public lands involves many very valuable resources. Receipts from the sale or lease of public lands and resources are an important source of revenue to the United States Treasury.

The types and amounts of receipts vary. For example, the Bureau markets timber for sale to private timber operators, generally by competitive bidding, and at not less than the fair market appraised value. Receipts from the sale of BLM timber amount to millions of dollars each year.

The largest single source of revenue from BLM lands is royalties, and bonus bids for mineral leases (mostly oil and gas). Individual bids for certain oil and gas leases may run into millions of dollars.

Other sources of revenue include grazing fees charged for the use of Federal range land, public land sales, and fees and commissions charged for certain services which the Bureau performs.

Most of the Bureau's receipts go directly into the United States Treasury. In some cases, however, Congress has provided that a certain percentage of BLM receipts are to be returned to the States or counties from which the money came—to aid school programs, roads, and so forth. The mineral leasing law provides, for example, that 37½ percent of receipts from Federal mineral leasing is to be distributed to the States and counties (Alaska receives 90 percent). In western Oregon forest lands 75 percent of the revenue from the sale of timber is returned to the 18 counties in which the lands are located.

ACCESS ROADS are constructed by BLM to aid in development of public lands.

Other portions of BLM receipts are earmarked for the Reclamation Fund, Indian Trust Funds, other Government agencies, and for range improvement.

Since the Bureau was organized in 1946, receipts from public land management have totalled more than $1.8 *billion*—many times the amount invested in the operations of BLM.

Of course, it costs money to operate the Bureau. These funds are appropriated to BLM annually by Congress, based on the formal budget submitted to Congress each year by the President.

A table showing receipts and appropriations over a 17-year period follows:

Year	Receipts	Appropriations
1946	$13, 840, 334	$4, 124, 622
1947	21, 012, 154	4, 398, 804
1948	33, 286, 434	4, 540, 677
1949	37, 149, 434	4, 917, 500
1950	16, 177, 349	3, 939, 187
1951	49, 182, 331	8, 226, 921
1952	64, 518, 396	11, 873, 353
1953	66, 845, 762	13, 825, 207
1954	77, 487, 465	14, 558, 178
1955	239, 548, 730	15, 451, 574
1956	212, 216, 522	19, 558, 245
1957	112, 059, 358	23, 776, 153
1958	127, 384, 728	30, 800, 141
1959	136, 720, 871	31, 102, 597
1960	371, 067, 867	36, 193, 788
1961	159, 246, 157	40, 555, 827
1962	173, 517, 502	43, 329, 735

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you would like to know more about the Bureau of Land Management, or if you have some specific questions about any of the Bureau's programs or operations, address your inquiry to the Director, Bureau of Land Management, United States Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D.C., or write directly to one of the BLM State offices listed below.

STATE OFFICES

Alaska:
555 Cordova Street, Anchorage.

Arizona:
3022 Federal Building, 230 N. First Avenue (P.O. Box 148), Phoenix.

REFORESTATION is one means of maintaining a sustained yield.

California:
Federal Building and U.S. Court House 650 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento.

Colorado:
667 Gas and Electric Building, 910 15th Street (P.O. Box 1018), Denver.

Idaho:
323 Federal Building (P.O. Box 2237), Boise.

Montana:
Crum-McKinnon Building, 1245 N. 29th Street, Billings.

Nevada:
560 Mills Street (P.O. Box 1551), Reno.

New Mexico:
Greer Building, 113 Washington Avenue (P.O. Box 1251), Santa Fe.

Oregon:
710 N.E. Holladay, Portland 12.

Utah:
3d Floor, Darling Building (P.O. Box 777), Salt Lake City.

Washington:
Being handled by the State Director in Oregon.

Wyoming:
Federal Recreation Building, 2002 Capitol Avenue (P.O. Box 929), Cheyenne.

Eastern States:
Division of Field Services, 201 LaSalle Building, 1728 L Street, NW., Washington, 25, D.C.

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